



THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA

JAZZ
MUSICIAN

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Europe

www.clayton-hamiltonjazzorchestra.com



ABOUT US

John Clayton, Jeff Hamilton and Jeff Clayton founded the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. While in their 20's, John and Jeff Hamilton toured and recorded with Monty Alexander then moved on to separate big band environs. Jeff joined Woody Herman and John signed up for Count Basie. All along, Jeff Clayton had been performing and recording in Los Angeles. In 1986, the three men came together in L.A. and formed the Jazz Orchestra.

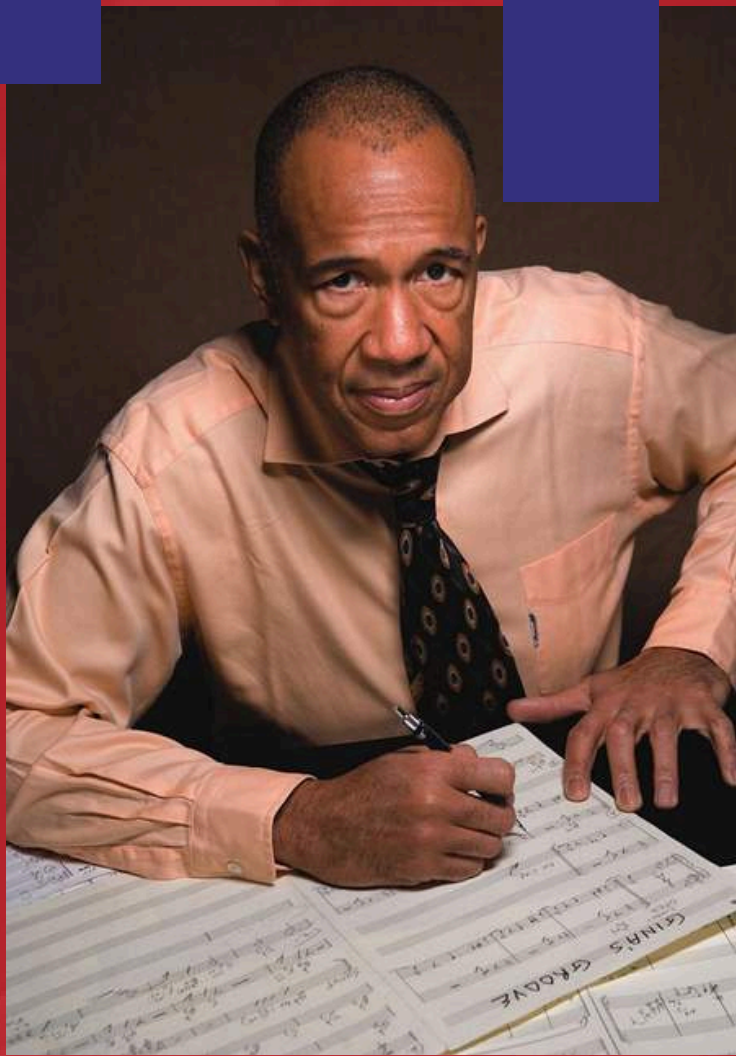
In 2020, Jeff Clayton passed away after a lengthy illness. The CHJO reminds audiences that his spirit remains in every note that is played. The excitement of this powerful 19-piece band is the result of the band's stellar performances and John's writing.

Their music is composed and arranged by John, and it is not unusual to hear his take on a composition by Jeff Hamilton or something from the Hamilton trio book.

Along with multiple Grammy© nominations, the orchestra is featured on recordings with Milt Jackson, Diana Krall, John Pizzarelli, Charles Aznavour, Ernie Andrews, Barbara Morrison, Natalie Cole and many more.

From 1999-2001, they were the in-resident jazz orchestra for the Hollywood Bowl. Their busy schedule still finds them touring the U.S., Europe and Japan, often premiering extended works at jazz festivals and in concert halls.

People often describe their sound as being influenced by Ellington, Basie and Thad Jones. This would never be denied by the orchestra, but one listen lets you know that their voice is unique, distinct and impactful.



JOHN CLAYTON

Bassist, Composer, Arranger and Producer, John Clayton is a busy man. He is a Grammy© winner with nine additional nominations and has written and/or recorded with artists such as Milt Jackson, Diana Krall, Paul McCartney, Regina Carter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gladys Knight, Queen Latifah, McCoy Tyner, YoYo Ma and Charles Aznavour, to name only a few.

John was the principal bassist in the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra (The Netherlands) from 1980-1984. In 1986, John co-founded the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and rekindled The Clayton Brothers Quintet. In addition to his individual clinics and workshops, he also directs the educational components of Centrum, The Port Townsend Jazz Festival, and the Vail Jazz Workshop.



GRAMMY AWARD

Instrumental Arrangement
Accompanying Vocalist(s)
for the song "I'm Gonna
Live Till I Die"

DISCOGRAPHY

- 1990 Groove Shop
- 1991 Heart and Soul
- 1995 Absolutely!
- 1999 Explosive! with Milt Jackson
- 2000 Shout Me Out!
- 2005 Live at MCG
- 2009 Charles Aznavour & the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra
- 2011 Sundays in New York with Trijntje Oosterhuis

It is John's arrangement of the "Star Spangled Banner" that helped propel Whitney Houston in her 1990 performance at the Super Bowl (the recording went platinum). His recordings with the Clayton Brothers, the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, Milt Jackson, Monty Alexander, Count Basie and others are plentiful.

John feels "I've been guided by a village of musicians who helped me understand the humility that goes along with playing music at the highest level you can. Ray Brown used to tell me to 'Learn how to play the bass!!' Just take care of the music and it will take care of you."



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JEFF CLAYTON

Jeff Clayton, born on February 16, 1954, and passing away on December 16, 2020, was a prominent American jazz alto saxophonist and flautist.

In 1977, alongside his brother John Clayton, he co-founded The Clayton Brothers, a significant endeavor in his musical journey. Subsequently, he joined forces with Jeff Hamilton to establish the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, further solidifying his mark on the jazz scene.

Throughout his illustrious career, Clayton's talents graced the performances and recordings of esteemed figures such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Ella Fitzgerald, Woody Herman, Lionel Hampton, Ethan Smith, and Lena Horne. Notably, he contributed to the Count Basie Orchestra during Thad Jones's tenure.

Additionally, Clayton was part of the Philip Morris Superband from 1989 to 1991 and collaborated extensively with Gene Harris, Dianne Reeves, Joe Cocker, B.B. King, and Ray Charles, among others.

Tragically, Clayton succumbed to kidney cancer on December 16, 2020, at the age of 66, leaving behind a legacy deeply ingrained in the annals of jazz history.



GRAMMY AWARD NOMINATION

Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Individual or Group category by Brother To Brother.

DISCOGRAPHY

- Boogie-Down, Ernestine Anderson and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, 1989
- Groove Shop, Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, 1989
- Heart and Soul, Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, 1991
- Music, The Clayton Brothers, 1991
- Absolutely, Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, 1995
- Expressions, The Clayton Brothers, 1997
- Explosive!, Milt Jackson and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, 1999





JEFF HAMILTON

Hamilton, born in Richmond, Indiana, USA, started playing piano at a young age but got inspired by drummer Gene Krupa when he was five, leading him to start drumming at eight. At fifteen, he played with Earlham College's jazz ensemble and later studied at Indiana University under John Von Ohlen.

He joined Monty Alexander's Trio in 1975 and then Woody Herman's Orchestra until 1978. Hamilton was part of the L.A. Four and co-leads the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra with Jeff Clayton and John Clayton. He also leads his trio with Jon Hamar on bass and Tamir Hendelman on piano.

Hamilton has collaborated with Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, the Count Basie Orchestra, Oscar Peterson, and Ray Brown. He toured with Diana Krall and recorded with her. During a visit to Japan in 2002 with Krall, he became a fan of Atsuko Hashimoto, a Hammond B3 organist, and recorded two albums with her.

DISCOGRAPHY

- The Best Things Happen (Azica, 2004)
- From Studio 4, Cologne, Germany (Azica, 2006)
- Symbiosis (Capri, 2009)
- Red Sparkle (Capri, 2012)
- Time Passes On (Jazzed Media, 2012)
- The L.A. Session (In + Out, 2013)
- Live From San Pedro (Capri, 2018)
- Equal Time with Akiko Tsuruga, Graham Dechter (Capri, 2019)
- Catch Me If You Can (Capri, 2020)
- Merry & Bright (Capri, 2021)



